

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1903.

WIDESPREAD AGITATION.

It would seem that there is a wide-
spread agitation among the colored
people to arouse public sentiment in the
North with respect to the disfranchising
constitutions in the South.

Meetings have been called in nearly all
the large cities, and at them this ques-
tion is to be discussed and money raised
to pay counsel to carry test cases to the
highest courts.

It would therefore seem that there is
a well-defined and quite strongly backed
movement on foot having for its object
the systematic agitation of the race issue
and with the especial object of overthrow-
ing and eliminating the disfranchising
clauses of the Southern constitutions.
Such a meeting was advertised to take
place in Cooper Union Hall in New York
last night. Such a meeting has been
held in Richmond. Other such meetings
are to be held in other cities, North and
South.

Where the headquarters of this move-
ment is does not clearly appear, but the
walking-and-talking-delegates of the
organization are Mr. John S. Wise and
the colored lawyer Hayes, from Rich-
mond. From all that we can see and
hear they find great favor in the eyes of
the negro masses, but we doubt if they
would be able to command the public
attention they are now receiving but for
the aid they have gotten, indirectly, from
the White House.

Mr. Roosevelt has given an immense impetus to this race
agitation by his entertainment of negroes
in his family and in the White House,
and by his course in the matter of the
nomination of Dr. Crum for the collector-
ship of the port of Charleston, S. C.
That the President is determined in his
course; that he intends to persist in show-
ing the negro to the front; that he medi-
tates some move to give the negro more
influence in Southern public affairs, is
shown by the late speech of Mr. Root,
who, we must believe, uttered no senti-
ment at variance with his chief's. Prac-
tically and politically speaking, Root's
speech was Roosevelt's.

It was a tentative speech, however; it
committed the Administration to no pre-
cise policy, but was an admission that
the wholesale enfranchisement measures
of the immediate post-bellum period were
a failure, and it suggested that the time
now has arrived to look about for some
better method of dealing with the negro
as a voter.

Exactly what course the Administra-
tion people are meditating we cannot
guess. That matter is all the more mys-
terious now since Mr. Crumpacker, within
a few days past, seems to have thrown
aside, as a bad job, his plan to reduce the
representation in the lower house of
Congress of those States which have
restricted the negro vote.

And so we say that evidence is not want-
ing, and increases, that the Wise-Hayes
movement is supported by a widespread
organization of negroes, and that it is
encouraged by white men of importance
in the Republican party. And Mr. Roose-
velt and Mr. Root, if not active and di-
rect participants in the movement, by
what they have said and done have given
Wise, Hayes & Co. the opportunity to
arrest public attention in the North. But
luckily for us of the South, not all
Northerners now-a-days lend willing ears
to the tales of Republican politicians.
Thousands of Northerners spend a part
of each year in the South; other thou-
sands are interested in Southern indus-
tries. Still others, calm, calculating, but
patriotic men, will not willingly see the
present prosperous condition of the South
put to jeopardy to please the politicians.

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB'S FESTIVAL.

It is gratifying to all lovers of music
and to people generally in the community
who are in favor of culture, that the
prospects of the Wednesday Club are now
so bright. It is proposed to make the
next festival a celebration of the tenth
anniversary of the club, and to give the
grandest entertainment this noble institu-
tion has ever given to the Richmond pub-
lic. The services of great artists have
been secured, and the chorus will fairly
eclipse itself. We wish that the festival
could be held in a hall capable of seating
thousands, so that all the people might
enjoy the music at popular prices.

The Wednesday Club is an educational
institution, and the festivals given from
year to year are also educational. The
purpose of the club is not merely to af-
ford entertainment to the people, but to
cultivate a popular taste for the best
music. The club has done a great deal
in this direction, and has turned out from
its school of music many graduates. The
improvement in the church choirs of the
city is due largely to the work of this
organization, and there has been a de-
cided improvement in the tone of music.
But the club has not been able to reach
the masses for the simple reason that its
entertainments have been given in a hall
of limited capacity, and under the heavy
expenses which was necessary to in-
cur, each seat had to bring a high price.
The suggestion was made last year that
at least one concert of the series be given
at popular prices, but the suggestion came
too late to be acted upon. We had hoped
that a larger hall would be secured this

season, so that the musicians might play
to thousands instead of hundreds.

Richmond is an educational center and
becomes more and more so each year. In
addition to our splendid schools, we have
a number of outside educational institu-
tions, not the least among which is the
Wednesday Club. It is a factor and an
important factor in our educational sys-
tem, and it deserves the encouragement
and support of all men and women who
have the cause of education at heart.
Education is a much broader term in its
significance now than ever before in the
history of the world, and every institu-
tion, of whatever character, which tends
to improve the mental and moral condi-
tion of the people as an educational in-
stitution should be encouraged.

THE RAILROADS OF THE SOUTH

It is given out in the railroad world
that the Southern Railway Company has
now, through its various purchases, se-
cured access to nearly all southern ports
east of the Mississippi, including West
Point, Richmond, Norfolk, Charleston,
Savannah, Brunswick, Mobile and New
Orleans, not to speak of Memphis, St.
Louis, Louisville, Chicago and Cincinnati.
This is now one of the strongest railroad
corporations in the United States, and
when it is remembered that a few years
ago the road was in the hands of a re-
ceiver, it seems almost marvelous that it
has now attained such a commanding
position in the railroad world. A little
while ago the preferred stock of this
company was selling in the twenties; it
is now worth \$95 per share, and the com-
pany is paying five per cent. dividend
regularly on the entire issue. The com-
mon stock is now worth about \$38 a share
on the open market. In the meantime
the company has improved its road bed,
strengthened its bridges and enlarged its
equipment and put itself in first-class
operating condition.

The Atlantic Coast Line is another
southern railroad corporation that has be-
come strong and great. The Coast Line
is a fine system within itself, but it has
recently acquired a controlling interest
in the Louisville and Nashville road. It
enters nearly all the prominent cities of
the South, giving it access to most of the
southern ports, and making it a magni-
ficent railroad property with main line
from Washington to Tampa, and with
branch lines running in all directions.

The Coast Line has also improved its
road bed and equipment, and is in prime
physical condition. Its earnings are
large, and promise to be much larger in
the near future.

Another southern railroad that is
worthy of being mentioned in this connec-
tion is the Seaboard Air Line, which also
runs from Washington to Tampa, and
has extensive collateral lines. The Sea-
board Air Line is a fine property, although
it has not had the same chance for de-
velopment that these other properties
have had, for it is a much younger cor-
poration. But it is doing a good business,
which is improving all the time, and the
other great southern roads must reckon
with it sooner or later. Just what is to
become of the Seaboard Air Line we
make no predictions, but we feel sure that
it will continue to be a strong factor in
the roads of the South and in southern
development.

This article is written not to boom the
southern railroads, but to emphasize the
fact that the South is growing. There
is no better index to the growth of a com-
munity than the roads which traverse it.
These roads have grown because the South
has grown; these roads are prosperous
because the South is prosperous. It is
true that they have played an important
part in the development of the South, but
they could not have prospered except the
South had prospered. They have built
up an immense traffic because the South
has a great deal of stuff to haul.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC
The subject of temperance legislation
is one that is engaging the attention of
the people of Virginia, and is a subject
that the General Assembly must deal
with. We hope that some measure sat-
isfactory to all interests involved will be
adopted, so as to remove the question
as far as possible from State politics.

We are opposed to a general prohibition
law because it is undemocratic and im-
practicable. We do not believe that such
a law in Virginia would operate at all
satisfactory to either side, for the simple
reason that, although there may be
some communities which by a majority
are in favor of prohibition, it is quite
certain that there are other commu-
nities which by a majority are opposed to it.

But, say the prohibitionists, on the
same principle you might contend that
there should be no general law against
theft, or murder, or gambling, or any other
crime. It is just here that prohibitionists
make their fatal mistake. The selling of li-
quor is not necessarily a crime, and the
drinking of liquor is not necessarily a sin.
This is all admitted when one admits that
it is proper for a druggist to sell liquor,
and for men and women to drink liquor
for medicinal purposes. Therefore, the
sale of liquor is a subject not of prohibi-
tion, but of regulation. Where some
men, and even some women, are
pained to see, drink liquor immoderately
and abuse it, there are many who drink
it temperately and do not abuse it. For
that reason and for the reason that many
upright men in the Commonwealth are
resentful when an attempt is made for
sumptuary laws to prevent them from
buying and drinking whiskey, it is prac-
tically impossible to abolish the liquor
traffic. In communities where these men
are not in majority or in a strong minor-
ity, prohibition must be a failure, and
so from a practical view it is inexpedient
for the State to attempt to enforce a
general prohibition law and apply it to
all communities, to those where the peo-
ple are opposed to it, or even to those
where there is a strong minority senti-
ment against it.

But we believe in the principle of local
option, for local option is local self-gov-
ernment, and local self-government is
good Democracy. We are willing, so far
as we are concerned, that each and every
community shall decide this question for
itself, and we promise for our part to
obey the law in any event and to exert
our influence to enforce it. We are will-
ing that each and every community shall
have prohibition, or a local dispensary,
according as the people in that community
may decide for themselves by popular
vote. We have no objection to what is
known as the Mann bill, except that we
do not think it a fair method of testing
popular sentiment, and, as we have pre-
viously said, we do not think that it is
viciously said, we do not think that it is
in keeping with the spirit of the Constitu-
tion, which provides for a secret ballot.
A citizen may be willing that liquor
be dispensed in a saloon in his com-
munity, provided other people want a
saloon; at the same time such a citizen
may be unwilling to petition the court
to allow a saloon to be opened. He may
be willing to let those who want it have
it, and yet he may not want a saloon for
himself, and would not feel justifiable in
asking the court to allow a saloon to be
opened, because he would thus put him-
self on record as desiring it.

Under this plan, citizens would be called
upon practically to vote in the open,
and not only to vote, but to have their
vote registered in court and kept there for
all time as a matter of public record. We
understand that the advocates of the
Mann bill say that this is why they are
in favor of this measure, because it will
be in most communities equivalent prac-
tically to prohibition, but this brings us
back to the original proposition. Unless
sentiment in any community is in favor
of prohibition, and largely so, it will be
impossible in that community to enforce
a prohibition law. Liquor will be sold
in spite of the law and in defiance of the
law, and the law will thus be brought
into contempt. As liquor will be sold in
any community, it is best, as experience
shows, that it be sold under the regula-
tion of the law and under the watchful
eyes of the officers of the law. In this
way only can the evil be reduced to a
minimum.

We have not opened up this subject for
general discussion, nor do we offer any
new suggestions. We have simply en-
deavored to review the situation, and we
hope that the conservative members
of the General Assembly will take up the
question in wisdom and discretion, and
enact a law which will subserve all in-
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JUDGE GROSSCUP'S DECISION.

A decision in Chicago of Judge Gross-
cup, of the United States Court, in the
Beef Trust cases is far reaching and
brings the business of the country face
to face with the Sherman anti-trust law.
Judge Grosscup has not attempted to
pass upon the righteousness of the law,
but simply to define the law and to apply
it to the case in point. He declares that
combination in restraint of trade is a
violation of this law, and that restraint
of trade is not dependent upon any con-
sideration of reasonableness or unreason-
ableness in the combination; averred: nor
is it to be tested by the prices that re-
sult from the combination. "Indeed," he
goes on, "combination that leads directly
to lower prices" to the consumer may,
within the doctrine of these cases even as
against the consumer, be restraint of
trade, and combination that leads directly
to higher prices, may, as against the pro-
ducer, be restraint of trade. The statute
thus interpreted has no concern with
prices, but looks solely to competition and
to giving competition full play by making
illegal effort at restriction upon competi-
tion. Whatever combination has the di-
rect and necessary effect of restricting
competition is, within the meaning of
the Sherman act as now interpreted, re-
straint of trade.

Applying this principle to the case in
point, he says that thus defined there can
be no doubt that the agreement of the de-
fendants to refrain from bidding against
each other in the purchase of cattle is
combination in the restraint of trade; so
also their agreement to bid up prices to
stimulate shipments, intending to cease
from bidding when the shipments have
arrived. He adds that the same result
follows when we turn to the combina-
tion of defendants to fix prices upon and
restrain the quantities of meat shipped to
their agents or their consumers. Such
agreements, he argues, can be nothing
less than restrictions upon competition,
and therefore combination in restraint
of trade, which make out a case under the
Sherman act.

In view of this decision, what need
is there for any anti-trust law in addition
to the Sherman act?
A crank who happens to be a member
of the Missouri Legislature, being en-
couraged by the recent expressions of the
President of the United States and Pres-
ident Eliot, of Harvard, has introduced
a bill in the body of which he is a mem-
ber to encourage the Gretna Green busi-
ness. This Missouri statesman does not
hesitate to label his bill one to "encour-
age marriage." It provides that mar-
riage licenses shall not be recorded until
the return is made showing that the mar-
riage ceremony has been performed. This
would simply make the way for runaway
couples a great deal easier than it now
is. A couple flying in the face of paren-
tal disapproval would have only to get
the license and with the precious docu-
ment in hand await a favorable oppor-
tunity to slip away and have the knot tied.
The whole thing would be kept mum by
law until they were united in the holy
bonds of wedlock. That would be as
soft a snap as Virginia boys and girls
would want.

We congratulate Congressman Hay, of
Virginia, on the gallant and successful
fight he made in the House two days ago
against the army bill. The features of
the bill to which Mr. Hay particularly
objected were those providing for the re-
tirement of the officers of the civil war
at an advanced age, and for permitting
officers to deposit money with the gov-
ernment at three per cent. interest.
Mr. Hay was quite right in saying that
this was "paternalism run mad." The
tendency of Republicanism is towards
paternalism, and each time the ugly thing
shows its head, it is the duty of Demo-
crats to strike it as hard as they can.

Secretary Root is going to make some
trouble yet. He is said to be advocat-
ing a scheme to add rifle practice to the
course of study in American public
schools. At any rate, he is going to ex-

periment a little along that line in the
schools of Washington city. His plan
is to have the government furnish the
rifles and the ammunition, as well as an
instructor for the barracks, and then let
the school boys blaze away at tar-
gets during recess each day. The boys
are very much in favor of the scheme,
and we have no doubt that as soon as
the experiment is started Congressmen will
be flooded with petitions from school-
boys from all over the country, asking
that their schools be supplied with guns
and instructors, but who will pay dam-
ages for the inevitable accidents?

The Southern cotton producers are
happy, or ought to be. The staple is
selling now at one cent a pound more
than it brought a year ago, and the ten-
dency is still upward. There are all
sorts of predictions as to what will be
the conditions later on, but there are
very few who think cotton will go any
lower at any early date, while there are
many good judges who do not hesitate
to predict ten cent cotton before the
year is very old. Whatever may be
its stopping point, the facts are that the
visible supply is now 800,000 bales
less than it was at this time last year,
and the demand for export is much great-
er than it was a year ago. There seems
to be nothing this side of the gathering
of this year's crop to change these con-
ditions.

The Governor and four ex-Governors
of Virginia will take part in the exer-
cises at Lee Camp Hall to-night, when a
portrait of James D. Kemper will be
presented to the camp.
Governor Kemper was at one time
Speaker of the House of Delegates. At
the head of his brigade, he was wounded
at Gettysburg and left on the field for
dead. In 1863 he was elected Governor
of Virginia, to succeed Gilbert C. Wal-
ker. Once during his gubernatorial term
General Kemper might have been made
a United States Senator, but he declined
to allow his name to be used. He was
a brilliant speaker, a good lawyer and
soldier and an honest and candid gentle-
man. During the latter years of his life
he suffered very keenly from the wound
he received at Gettysburg.

The St. Louis Exposition managers are
showing good sense as they go along.
They have voted to have no woman's
building, but all the same the women
will have a considerable hand in run-
ning things when the big show begins.

It is a wonder that there is not enough
Adam lying around to charge some woman
with the ending of those alleged
Rockefeller telegrams.

Fredericksburg is determined to re-
main on a good footing. She is negoti-
ating for another shoe factory to take
the place of the one that moved from
there to Newport News.

A negro man was sent to the peniten-
tiary for eighteen years in Pennsylvania
for being "moonstruck." While so struck
he killed his sister.
"Dr." Day's Amherst "drug store"
keeps in print, although it may be nec-
essary to indulge in a small confagration
to do so.

There will be no trouble about the ice
crop this fine winter, and it does seem
that the fever germs ought to freeze out
of all hope of a next summer's budding.

If he did not freeze to death last night
the ground hog doubtless wishes he had
seen his shadow.

Mr. Jake Lassiter is very happy to be
able to contradict the story of his
drowning in the waters of the Chowan.

Judge Grosscup fell up against the beef
combine with something of a dull thump.

None of the trusts seem to be in a
hurry to bust in response to the action
of Congress.

A joint debate between Ben Tillman and
John Wise would draw an immense
crowd at fifty cents a head.

Anyhow, Addicks did not speak in a
strange tongue. He made his orders
read very plain.

The Bowen presidential boom will have
a 1908 date when it comes.

They are having freezing weather even
down in South Texas.

Where's your ground hog now?

With a Comment or Two.

Mr. John S. Wise is at it again and
has been telling the Northern people
that Virginia's public men have de-
teriorated and deteriorated until they have
no influence in public affairs.—Richmond
Times-Dispatch.

Is the Hon. John S. Wise still sore be-
cause Virginia's public men forced him
into the "also ran" column of a gubern-
atorial returns table? He should not
sore at old grudge so long.—Newport
News Press.

Members of the various social clubs
throughout Virginia will breathe easier
now that the Legislature has agreed to
place them in the bar-room category.—
Fredericksburg Star.

They will not be entirely happy until
the Legislature adjourns.

With John S. Wise delivering a blood
and thunder speech in Boston and Ben
Tillman waving his pitchfork in New
York, the North has good right to ex-
claim that Southern spouters are div-
ing Northern orators out of business.—
Greenville (N. C.) Reflector.

The North, we believe, is claiming Mr.
Wise as its own now, and nobody is con-
testing the claim.

How many people remember that Ne-
vada was admitted to the Union in order
to obtain enough States to secure ratifica-
tion of the constitutional amendments
confering citizenship and suffrage on
negroes?—Wilmington Messenger.

Very few, we dare say, but it is a fact.

They say Grover Cleveland cares more
for a big fish than for the objections of
smaller men to his influence in politics.
But a fisherman thinks more than he
talks, and he has a good time always—
which is more than Grover's critics are
having during the blizzard.—Florida
Times-Union.

No good fisherman will give ear to a
critic or anybody else when the cork is
being agitated.

The violent and sensational utterances
of the Senator from South Carolina are
calculated to create the impression that
there is a burning race question in the
Southern States, when in reality there is
nothing of the sort.—New Orleans Plea-
yune.

But if you let this fact become known
Tillman will have no stock to trade upon.

An Hour With
Virginia Editors.The Fredericksburg Star has this to
say:

"Of all the absurd charges made lately
the one to the effect that a certain re-
ligious denomination controls the State
institutions of learning is the most ab-
surd. These institutions are non-sectarian
and we have no idea that this or that
religious belief has anything to do with
a choice of their professors and
teachers. The subject is, however, too
unimportant to warrant discussion."

This paragraph closed a very strong
and suggestive good roads article in the
Southside Virginian.

Last week some Western men came to
our county on a prospecting tour. Our
roads were so terrible that they left in
disgust. But our excellent Board of
Superiority will give this matter their
earliest consideration. With all our
public highways thoroughly macadamized
an era of prosperity will dawn before
seen in the past.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance has
lost hope for the present. It says:
"From all accounts, it is useless for us
to expect the establishment of a battle-
fields park in this section until Speaker
Henderson shall have retired to the
shades of private life. It is a travesty
on popular government to allow the
Speaker of Congress to wield power
enough to thwart the desires of a ma-
jority of Congress."

The Newport News Times-Herald
says:

"This is the whole thing in a nutshell.
It is the Populist that the Democratic
party must be rid of if it is to succeed
in the coming election. The Populist
faith that commands itself to the con-
ditions that confront the people nor a sin-
gle idea they ever conceived that is ac-
ceptable to the practical business world,
therefore Democracy wins it will be
without Populist platforms or their
leader."

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot makes this
its closing paragraph to an article on
conditions as it sees them:

"And that the same old story is flit-
teringly out and completed. The rail-
way octopus was to be a very benevo-
lent animal. He would not squeeze
anybody for worlds. And now the peo-
ple of the West find themselves com-
pelled to pay an advance of 33 per cent.
in freight rates. The non-affiliated roads
may also be in the pool, but they are
relatively unimportant. It is the merged
roads that are in a position to put on
the screws."

Here is one editor who is going to rest
easy next summer. The Newport News
Press says:

"Every condition of life has its compensa-
tions. The man who owns only one
suit of clothes doesn't have to be awak-
ed at night worrying about the appetite of
the festive moth."

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel says:

"General Matt. Ransom made five times
as much money out of his cotton crop
this year as he would have received as
salary as United States Senator. The
truth is that any man fit to sit in the
Senate can earn a good deal more in pri-
vate life than the government position
pays."

"The child labor question is being dis-
cussed all over the State. The Durham
Herald says:

"If the cotton mill men cannot say
that the proposed child labor law is
wrong, we cannot see what grounds they
can have for fighting it."

This paragraph is from the Raleigh
Post:

"The outburst of John Wise, formerly
a Virginian and a Southerner, but now
thoroughly converted to John Brownian,
calls to mind that it was under the ad-
ministration of his own father, then
Governor Wise of Virginia, that John
Brown was hung for exercising the cour-
age to attempt to carry into practice what
this degenerate son runs to Boston to
preach. Of the two characters, John
Brown or John Wise, and Brown is in-
deed the more admirable; yet he was
hung as a felon, as he deserved to be."

Speaking of the war on the gamblers
in Charlotte the Concord Tribune says:
"Recorder Shannonhouse may not have
a volume of law behind his attempt, but
he deserves the support of the city of
Charlotte in his effort to break up the
gamblers. A bold move, but one worthy
of an official."

The Greenville Reflector says:
"If some of the gas furnished by the
Coal Strike Commission could be con-
verted into fuel, the commission would
not be altogether useless."

Referring to John Wise's Boston speech,
the Raleigh News-Observer says:
"In the meantime the white and colored
people are getting along very well in the
South. They do not know anything about
race antagonism until they pick up a
Boston paper and read Wise's speech."

Short Talks With the Legislature.

Danville Register: A pure election law
is regarded as necessary. Men cannot be
trusted to do their duty at elections.
The language of another Danvician: "If
you'll desist de Lawd run de wealth,
you'll sing halleluia in fall!"—Atlanta
Constitution.

Newport News Press: We do not pre-
sume to say that the officials of these
Virginia institutions are afraid to have
their accounts audited and their methods
revealed, but even their staunchest sup-
porters must admit that their efforts to
prevent investigation are liable to be
taken by some persons as an indication
that there is something which it is desir-
able to keep hidden. No hired man of the
State who is doing his duty should object
to publicity, and those who do not belong
to this category deserve no consideration
at the hands of either the General As-
sembly or the people of Virginia.

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: We repeat that
the General Assembly will enhance its
own dignity and the respect in which
it is held by the public by curtailing
lobbying, and by giving less time and at-
tention to hired lobbyists paid to spout
in committees and on the floor of the
members outside. There are measures
now before the Legislature that are fair,
just and necessary, and that should
have passed long ago; but they have been
and are held up by men paid to accom-
plish that very purpose.

Newport News Times-Herald: From all
that we can observe at this long range,
the Legislature of Virginia is engaged in
a sort of pink tea law-making. The ap-
propriation punch bowl is presided over
with zealous care against over stimulation
by the champagne and apple grower of the
State, and a number of breezy and
beautiful young things who are debuts
in the business chatter over the
urns and serve a weak assortment of in-
sipid stuff to their more or less uninter-
ested associates.

Trend of Thought
in Dixie Land

Greenville (S. C.) News: The great mass
of ignorance and immorality represented
by the negro race should not imagine that
because a few of the African race freely
diluted